



VICKERSTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

AUTUMN 2020 NEWSLETTER

Providing an outstanding education in the Heart of the Community

WELCOME BACK!

This term is looking a little different from previous years, as we continue to work hard to keep your children and families safe, we would like to share a snapshot of what we have achieved in school so far this term. The children are working well in their classes and have adapted brilliantly to all the changes that we have had to make. Thank you to them and yourselves for everything you are doing to help keep us all safe in these challenging times.

Mr Holmes, Headteacher

Term dates 2019

Autumn Term 2020	Wednesday 4 th September – Friday 18 th December
Half Term	Monday 26 th – Friday 30 th October
Spring Term 2021	Tuesday 5 th January – Friday 1 st April
Half Term	Monday 15 th – Friday 19 th February
Summer Term 2021	Monday 19 th April – Friday 16 th July
Half Term	Monday 31 May – Friday 1 st June
	Early May Bank Holiday – Monday 3rd May

No Parking



Parking on the school site is reserved for staff, parents who have applied for and been given a school parking permit or people attending meetings in school. No other parents should be parking on site at the beginning or end of the day or if there is an event in school as we have taxis, delivery vehicles and minibuses needing the space to park and manoeuvre. Please allow a few extra minutes to park away from school as the safety of our children should be everyone's priority.

Stuart Park Landscapes

With thanks to [Stuart Park](#) & Team for completing works on our school field to allow us safe & accessible access from playground to school field. Stuart & Team also created a gated area around some of our classrooms to allow children to easily access their outdoor provision. The work they completed was to a high standard and we were hugely impressed!



Vickerstown HUB

Our school became the HUB for critical worker and vulnerable children for the whole of Walney at the start of Lockdown, we welcomed children from all of the primary schools on the Island for the whole period and were helped by teachers from all of the schools. The vast majority of staff however came from our school, 29 people volunteered to work in the different classrooms we set up, they made sure everyone was safe and that the children continued their learning. Teachers and Jayne and Becky from the kitchen delivered food parcels and work packs to families who were shielding, and we learnt how spookily quiet school is with only 30 children in it. Every one of us missed the hustle and bustle of school being full and all of the nice things we would have been doing like sports day, residentials and saying a proper goodbye to our year 6 leavers. It gave us a lot of experience in setting up school for our return in September, but even now we are still finding it strange that we cannot do things we would normally be doing like PE in the hall or playing on the equipment outside.

School times

Class	Drop Off	Pick Up	Friday
Brambles	8:30	2:45	2:45
Reception	8:30	3:00	2:00
Year 1	8:15	2:45	1:45
Year 2	8:30	3:00	2:00
Year 3	8:15	2:45	1:45
Year 4	8:15	2:45	1:45
Year 5	8:30	3:00	2:00
Year 6	8:15	2:45	1:45

Brambles

Brambles children, new and old, have settled into our new routines really well and are a lovely group.



There are still places available in Brambles Nursery for this term and we will be having a January intake for those children turning 3 years old before the end of December. Please contact the school office for more information on 471350 or email h.wooldridge@vickerstownschoo.org.uk

Reception

This year we welcomed 24 children into our Reception class. 16 children joined us from our own Brambles nursery. We have all settled in really well and are enjoying the new normal. So far this half term we have enjoyed P E outside in the Muga practising our ball skills. We have tested our wellies and explored the field on Wellie Wednesday adventures. We have learnt all about Bears and Meerkats and in the next few weeks we will be finding out about Penguins and Polar Bears.



Year 1

The children have worked hard on their artwork this term. This was influenced by the story The Dot by Peter H Reynolds. Creating their own picture seeing where the dot will take them, experimenting with colours, how the colour can describe their emotions. Well done year 1, I am so proud of you.



Year 2

Year 2 have settled wonderfully into the new school year and changes. They have also shown great kindness in welcoming Mrs Woodhouse. Year 2 have been learning about the Great Fire of London and the children produced this beautiful art work as part of the topic.



Year 3

Year 3 have blown me away with their hard work and motivation. I am super proud of how well they have settled into the new routine. Year 3 also completed skyline pictures of Barrow after taking inspiration from the Barrovian artist John Duffin.



Year 4

Year 4 started the term with a focus on a book called 'The Dot'. The theme of this book was having a go and seeing where it takes you. We did lots of dot art! Year 4 have now started their history topic, Ancient Egyptians, finding out about pyramids, Tutankhamun and making canopic jars. We are currently reading a book called Secrets of a Sun King. The children are loving the intrigue and tension. Some even saying it's the best book they have ever read!! In science Year 4 have been on a minibeast hunt, finding invertebrates and carefully sketching them.



Year 5

Year 5 have settled in brilliantly. We've completed lots of description work on Peter Pan for English. We've written some lovely Autumn poems and created wreaths to take home. We've started creating Roman shields and Roman mosaics in topic. We are currently building up to Halloween and going to create Halloween lanterns to put outside.



Year 6

Year 6 have really settled into life and have tried lots of new strategies. In maths we do the 'fluent in five' and 'daily 10' maths challenges. In English we are concentrating on reading and spelling and we have discovered the 'Goosebumps' books! We love using class dojo for homework and as a social media app with our friends.



William completed the 5 mile virtual Tour de Furness bike ride around Walney Island & has raised £112! Well done William!
[Click here to read the article in the Evening Mail](#)

Supporting Pupils Transition Back to School.

On returning to school in September, the focus for Mr Holmes and all of the staff, was to ensure as smooth and settled a transition back, whilst supporting the children's mental health and wellbeing after the Covid19 lockdown. As with us adults, children have experienced many changes in their lives over the past few months. To help support the children's transition back into school, additional to them having whole class emotional wellbeing lessons, as the school Counsellor, I have had the opportunity to work with each class 'Bubble' in small groups. During these lessons the children have had the opportunity to share their thoughts, feelings and understanding of what their experience of not being in school was like for them. I have been so impressed with their self-awareness, understanding, honesty and acceptance of these changes. My overall impression is that the children appear happy and settled and were ready to learn and play alongside their friends and peers in school again. We are now doing some small group work on the value of friendships and what it means to be a good friend. Once again, Vickerstown pupils continue to show how thoughtful, caring and understanding of others they are. Listening to the children, it is clear that having supportive, trusted and caring adults both at home and in school, makes a huge difference in helping them to build their confidence, self-esteem and emotional resilience, which in turn helps them understand and find ways of coping with their feelings and life experiences.

Mrs K Robinson
H.E.Dip Counsellor, MBACP.

Useful websites:

Young Minds <https://youngminds.org.uk/>
Anna Freud Centre <https://www.annafreud.org/>
NSPCC <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

Cross Country Challenge

Some classes have been taking part in a virtual cross-country challenge set by the School Games Organiser for this half term. Year 5 and 6 have run the equivalent of 1 mile 5 times, recording each score to try and achieve a personal best. They're doing brilliantly. Well done!



Maths & Spelling Shed

All Children from Y1 – Y6 are supplied with a login they can access the games on their tablet at home and this will reinforce work done in the classroom.



Community Support

(Please click on each link for website access)

[Barrow Food Bank](#) Tel: 343436

[BBC Housing Support](#) Tel: 876550 (lettings)

[Universal Credit](#)

Family Support:

[Family Action](#) Tel: 821855 [Family Action Newsletter](#)

[Children & Families Services](#)

Local Clubs:

[Leonard Cheshire](#)

[Walney Youth Club](#)

[Walney Musical Theatre Company](#)

[Walney Community Centre Central Drive](#)

[Walney Central Youth Rugby](#)

[Walney Island Juniors FC](#)

[Vickerstown FC U11](#)

If you know of any other local groups that would like to be shared with the school community, please email h.wooldridge@vickerstownschoo.org.uk

School Meals

The children have adapted fantastically to the new lunchtime routine and having lunches in their classrooms. With the help of Friends of Vickerstown we have invested in dinner trollies ensuring Jayne & Becky can deliver school lunches to each class easily & safely. When things are back to normal these trollies will be used to store packed lunches for each class.

To order a school meal please log into your [school grid](#) account, you can preorder meals for the week in advance.



For the latest
Coronavirus updates
please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

<https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/>

